

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 9230

LIMDIS

SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR ET US

SUBJECT: FSE TRAINING FOR ETHIOPIA

1. CHMAAG HAS TRANSMITTED MESSAGE (DTG 31/0840Z JUL 75) REPORTING ON EPMG DELAY IN PROCESSING PILOTS FOR TRAINING IN CONUS, AS WELL AS HIS FULL EXPOSURE TO EPMG OF CONSEQUENCES THIS WOULD HAVE FOR PROPOSED DELIVERY DATES FOR F-5E'S. HE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT IN VIEW OF DEFMIN'S DESIRE TO SEE IF HE CAN TURN DIRG DECISION AROUND, WE HOLD TRAINING SPACES FOR SOME DAYS LONGER. I STRONGLY CONCUR IN THIS RECOMMENDATION.

2. WE HAVE MADE VERY CLEAR, PREVIOUSLY IN WRITING AND ORALLY IN RECENT DAYS, THAT DELAYS IN EPMG DECISIONS ON F-5E'S WILL VERY SHORTLY (A) DEPRIVE EPMG OF TRAINING FOR PILOTS UNTIL NEXT CYCLE BEGINNING IN NEXT CALENDAR YEAR, AND (B) BECAUSE EPMG WILL NOT HAVE QUALIFIED PILOTS WE CANNOT RPT CANNOT DELIVER F-5E'S FROM NOVEMBER PRODUCTION, BUT WOULD HAVE TO WAIT MANY MONTHS UNTIL PILOTS COMPLETE TRAINING.

3. AT AIRPORT TODAY I HAD BRIEF CHANCE TO MAKE POINTS AGAIN TO DEFMIN AYALEW, WHO ASSURED ME HE HAD MADE THEM CLEAR TO DIRG. I

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ASKED IF SOME DIRG ELEMENTS REFUSE TO TAKE THESE CONSEQUENCES

SERIOUSLY, PERHAPS BELIEVING THAT FURTHER EPMG PRESSURES AT LATER DATE COULD FORCE USG TO SCHEDULE SPECIAL PILOT TRAINING CYCLE. AYALEW SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO. HE ADDED WRYLY THAT ALL MILITARY GOVERNMENTS HAVE STRANGELY (HE HAS SAID THIS TO ME BEFORE) AND THAT DIRG MIGHT TAKE MATTER FURTHER AND CANCEL F-5E DEAL ENTIRELY.

4. GOOD NEWS OF AUG 16TH ARRIVAL DATE FOR FIRST FOUR F-5A'S HAS OBVIOUSLY NOT CLEARED THE AIR AS WE HAD HOPED. INSTEAD, WE BELIEVE SOME ELEMENTS IN DIRG MAY HAVE DECIDED THAT SINCE PRESSURES ON USG HAVE APPARENTLY PROVED EFFECTIVE IN F-5A CASE, NEW PRESSURES (DELAYS IN PILOT TRAINING) MIGHT FORCE USG TO RE-SCHEDULE DELIVERY PLAN FOR F-5E'S SO AS TO OBTAIN TWELVE AIRCRAFT IN FIRST (1975-76) GROUP INSTEAD OF EIGHT.

5. HOWEVER, WE ALSO THINK THAT SOME DIRG ELEMENTS ARE HOSTILE TO US-EPMG RELATIONS AND ARE DELIBERATELY ADVOCATING IMPOSSIBLE PRE-CONDITIONS ON USG TO ACHIEVE THAT END. THERE ARE ALSO SOME EPMG OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT WANT EPMG TO SPEND SUCH LARGE AMOUNTS ON MILITARY HARDWARE.

6. A GOOD DEAL MAY THUS HANG IN THE BALANCE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IF F-5E PROPOSAL IS TURNED DOWN OR INDEFINITELY POSTPONED BY DIRG BECAUSE OF LACK OF PILOT TRAINING, WE WOULD BE COMPELLED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THIS IS BEGINNING OF PHASE-DOWN BY EPMG OF MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WITH USG. IRRATIONAL AS IT MAY SEEM IN ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY SUPPLIER (WE BELIEVE BOTH SOVIETS AND PRC HAVE GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO EPMG FEELERS), IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THESE ELEMENTS COULD LEAD DIRG TO DECIDE TO REJECT BOTH F-5E OFFER AND TPS-43D RADAR, AND THUS BEGIN PHASEDOWN. ECONOMIC AID FROM USG (WE ARE LARGEST BILATERAL SUPPLIER) DOES NOT WEIGHT COMMENSURABLY IN DIRG THINKING.

7. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, WE THINK WE HAVE MADE OUR REAL-LIFE CONSTRAINTS PERFECTLY CLEAR, AND THAT EPMG WILL COME AROUND TO SEEING WHERE ITS OWN INTERESTS LIE. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE IN THE POSITION OF BEGGING THEM TO ACCEPT OUR HARDWARE.

8. FONMIN KIFLE, WHO HAS CLOSE INVOLVEMENT IN MAP MATTERS, DOES NOT RETURN FROM KAMPALA MEETING UNTIL MONDAY (CHAIRMAN TEFERI ARRIVED
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BACK TODAY). I PLAN TO TRY TO SEE FONMIN URGENTLY, PERHAPS TUESDAY, TO SAY THAT DECISIONS OF THIS SORT ARE FOR EPMG TO MAKE, AND THAT I MERELY WANT TO BE SURE THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE LONG-RANGE CONSEQUENCES OF MISSING THIS PILOT TRAINING CYCLE, WHICH WILL SUBSTANTIALLY DELAY RECEIPT OF F-5E'S. STRONGLY URGE THAT DOD/USAF SHOULD HOLD TRAINING SPACES OPEN FOR AT LEAST A WEEK TO GIVE DEFMIN AND FONMIN TIME TO OBTAIN A MORE FULLY CONSIDERED DIRG DECISION.

HUMMEL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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